Government with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh on 11.2.2002. The identified activities are at various stages of implementation.

(d) The AEZ is expected to benefit farmers and create job opportunities in each of its declared zones.

Promotion of ayurvedic and herbal industry in Kerala

2103. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to declare Kerala as a special zone for ayurvedic and herbal industry and trade with special privileges and subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to organize trade fairs related to herbal industry and ayurvedic medicines under the auspices of Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO); and

(d) whether the ITPO is providing any help/financial assistance to the "International Herbal Trade Fair and Ayurveda Expo 2002" conducted alongwith World Ayurveda Congress from 30th October to 5th November, 2002 at Kochi, Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organizes 'Arogya', a trade fair relating to Herbal Industry and Indian system of Medicine. The first 'Arogya' fair, 2001 was organized by India. Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) with the collaboration of Department of Indian Systems of Medicine, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during December 15-18, 2001. Many from ayurvedic and herbal industry fraternity also participated in the exhibition. 'Arogya' fair, 2002 is scheduled to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from December 11-15, 2002.

(d) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) does not provide any financial assistance to exhibitions whether in India or abroad organized by other Organisation. As such there is no proposal with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) to provide any financial assistance to the

"International Herbal Trade Fair and Ayurveda Expo 2002" to be conducted alongwith World Ayurveda Congress from 30th October to 5th November, 2002 at Kochi, Kerala.

Export of potatoes

†2104. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of potato exported during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have any plan to construct large number of cold storages and to give other incentives to the potato growing farmers for encouraging potato export in view of its increasing production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) The quantities of potatoes exported during the last three years are as under:

Period	Quantities in MTs
1999-2000	28200
2000-01	22637
2001-02 (Apr.-Feb.)	7722

(Source: APEDA)

(b) and (c) Government has approved setting up four Agri Export Zones (AEZs) exclusively for potatoes in the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. Some of the incentives available under AEZ Scheme are Duty free fuel for generation of powers, exemption of sales tax and other taxes/duties, if any on all inputs used for export of fresh and processed products from AEZ, assistance for development of infrastructure, product quality improvement, Pre and Post Harvest Training/extension services and Market Development etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.